Headquarters within 3 years of the effective date of the same.

(f) and (g) TCL is offering 3 tier tariff structure of Air Time rates as follows with discount to bulk uses :

(i)	Peak traffic Hours	Rs. 16.80/minute
(ii)	Normal traffic hours	Rs. 8.40/minute
(iii)	Off Peak traffic hours	Rs. 4.20/minute

Saleable Rooms at Howrah

1340. SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of saleable rooms available for Retiring Rooms and Rail Yatri Niwas at Howrah as a part of the passenger amenities and the total number of rooms allotted only for Officers Rest House in New Coaching Complex, Officers Rest House at Old Complex at North Concourse (3rd Floor) and Officers Rest House at South Concourse (1st Floor);

(b) whether the Government are considering to make available more rooms for passengers;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The details are as under :-

Accommodation in

Retiring room : No. of beds = 16

Rail Yatri Niwas :

AC double bedded = 8 (Total 16 beds)

Non-AC double bedded = 14 (Total 28 beds)

5 bedded dormitory 5 rooms (Total 25 beds)

Non-AC 3 bedded 6 rooms (Total 18 berths)

Seven bedded 4 rooms (Total 28 beds)

Accommodation in Officers' Rest Rooms at Old Complex in North Concourse (3rd Floor) :-

Non-AC 2 bedded room = 10

2 bedded room = 2

2 bedded room for N.F. Railway = 2

2 bedded room for Howrah Division = 6

Officers Rest Room at South Concourse (1st Floor)

Non-AC Rest House = 4

AC Rest House = 2

Officers Rest House at New Coaching Complex:

Non-AC 2 bedded at 3rd Floor = 14

Non-AC 2 bedded at 4th Floor = 14

AC Rest House 2 bedded 4th Floor = 12

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The present arrangement is considered sufficient to cater to the needs of the passengers.

[Translation]

Appointments in Communications Department

1341. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of appointments made in the departments/undertakings of Ministry during the last three years till date;

(b) the number of candidates belonging to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes in the above appointments;

(c) the number of posts reserved for Scheduled Caste/Schedule Tribes are still lying vacant at present in the departments/undertakings the Ministry; and

(d) the date by which these reserved posts are likely to be filled up and the reasons for delay therein?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Gauge Conversion

1342. SHRI A.G.S. RAM BABU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the conversion of metre gauge railway line between Chennai and Madurai into broad gauge line is being undertaken; and

(b) if so, the status of the project and the time by which the said route on broad gauge is thrown open for traffic?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Gauge conversion work is in full swing on Chennai - Tiruchchirappalli and Tiruchchirappalli-Dindigul sections. These works are presently targetted to be completed by March'98 and Dec.'98 respectively. Dindigul and Madurai are already linked with a BG line.

Supply of Wooden Sleepers

1343. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether huge orders for the supply of wooden sleepers have been placed on MMTC and Nagaland Forest Cooperatives when more than 2000 sets are awaiting despatch from various factories and an equal

number of sets are lying unutilised in various railway yards in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the orders placed with these firms alongwith the cost involved therein;

(c) whether both the MMTC and Nagaland Forest Cooperatives are commission agents for the supply of sleepers and MMTC had been blacklisted by the Railways sometime in 1993; and

(d) if so, the reasons which weighed with the Government to place orders on a black listed firm?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Orders have been placed for supply of wooden sleepers on MMTC (a Corporation of Central Government) and MARCOFED, Dimapur, Nagaland (a Corporation of Government of Nagaland), as under :

Name of Corporation	Quantity in cums.	Contract value
MMTC, New Delhi	43,000	Rs. 81.28 crores
MARCOFED, Dimapur, Nagaland	9,000	Rs. 16.61 crores
	52,000	Rs. 97.89 crores

It is not correct that 2000 sets are awiting despatch from various factories.

(c) Both the Corporations M/s MMTC and MARCOFED, Nagaland are Public Sector Undertakings owned by Central Government and Nagaland Government respectively. MMTC was not blacklisted by Railways in 1993.

(d) Does not arise.

New Railway Projects in Orissa

1344. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the new railway projects submitted by the Government of Orissa during the last three years;

(b) whether some of the proposals have been found unremunerative; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) Four proposals for new lines have been received from the Orissa Government during the last three years. The position of these is as under :

1. Haridaspur - Paradeep : The work has been sanctioned.
2. Jeypore - Malkangiri - Kottamatta : A survey has been taken up. Further consideration of the project will be possible once the survey report becomes available.
3. Talchar - Bimlagarh : A survey has been taken up. Further consideration of the project will be possible once the survey report becomes available.
4. Jharsuguda - Bishrampur via Sundergarh : This project could not be considered due to resource crunch.

Renovation of Garifa Railway Station

1345. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount sanctioned for renovation, lighting, seating arrangements, restoration of platforms, staircase, platform shed etc. for Garifa Railway Station under Howrah Division of Eastern Railway during the last three years;

(b) whether passenger amenities are almost nil in this station; and

(c) if so, the steps to be taken to provide above mentioned amenities to this station?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) Augmentation/provision of additional amenities is a continuous process. Garifa railway station is provided with amenities commensurate with the volume of passenger traffic. Recently works of provision of platform shed and foot-over-bridge have been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 11.55 lakh. Besides, for lighting and provision of fans on the platform a work has also been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 34,700/-

Funds for Construction of Roads in Karnataka

1346. SHRI VIJAY SANKESHWAR : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the allocation of funds made to Karnataka for the construction of roads during the last three years; and

(b) the number of villages in Karnataka connected/ to be connected with roads?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Unauthorised Hawkers

1347. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the movement of huge local passengers/office goers using the ferry services are obstructing by the unauthorised hawkers at platforms No. 2 to 7 of Howrah railway station and the newly set up mini market;